

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03636 272203Z

70-61

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 L-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-03 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00

NSAE-00 USIE-00 /047 W

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O 271320Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4231

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3636

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE TO IBS/NCA

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: ARRESTS OF ALLEGED PLOTTERS AND RUMORED INVOLVEMENT OF  
NGUYEN CAO KY

REF: SAIGON 3611, 3/27/75

1. SUMMARY: TEN ALLEGED PLOTTERS AGAINST GOVT ARRESTED MARCH 26  
HAVE BEEN LINKED BY SOME WITH NGUYEN CAO KY, WHO HELD MEETING  
OF OPPOSITION SAME DAY AT WHICH TWO OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE  
PRESENT. OTHERS THINK ARRESTS ARE ATTEMPT BY THIEU TO INTIMIDATE  
OPPOSITION, WHOSE DEMANDS FOR FORMATION OF CIVILIAN GOVT  
EVER MORE INSISTENT. NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF HAS TOLD US ARRESTED  
PERSONS WERE PLOTTING TO REPLACE PRESENT GOVT WITH ONE WILLING  
TO NEGOTIATE AWAY SVN INDEPENDENCE BUT THAT NGUYEN CAO KY NOT  
INVOLVED NOR ARE OTHER OPPOSITIONISTS PUBLICLY KNOWN TO BE  
DISCUSSING BROADENING OF PRESENT GOVT. ALL THOSE ARRESTED ARE  
RELATIVELY MINOR FIGURES.

END SUMMARY

2. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ISSUED STATEMENT MAR 27 SAYING SEVERAL  
PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR PLOTTING AGAINST GOVT (REFTEL).

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03636 272203Z

POLICE HAVE INFORMED US THAT FOLLOWING TEN PERSONS ARRESTED

NIGHT OF MAR 26-27: EX-SENATOR NGUYEN VAN CHUC; EX-SENATOR PHAM NAM SACH; EX- SENATOR THAI LANG NGHIEM (AKA PHAM VAN TAM); THAI TRANG; CATHOLIC THIRD FORCE PROPONENT PROF. CHAU TAM LUAN; NGUYEN HUU DUONG; DAU THI LUC OF CHINH LUAN; FORMER VNQDD ADHERENT AND PACM ACTIVIST NGUYEN THAN VINH; DISQUALIFIED SENATE CANDIDATE (1970) DINH TU THUC; AND MINOR HOA HAO FIGURES TRAN HUU DUYEN (WHO MAY NOT YET BE ARRESTED BUT WILL BE).

3. PRESS SPECULATION (E.G., AP) HAS LINKED THOSE ARRESTED WITH NGUYEN CAO KY, WHO HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SOME OF THEM IN PAST AND WHO HELD MEETING OF 22 OPPOSITION LEADERS EARLIER SAME DAY AT WHICH TWO OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE PRESENT. EX-SENATORS CHUC, SACH AND NGHIEM WERE ALL ASSOCIATED WITH KY'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN 1971. OTHERS, HOWEVER, LIKE PROF. CHAU TAM LUAN, HAVE NO HISTORY OF INTIMACY WITH KY AS FAR AS WE KNOW. NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF MG NGUYEN KHAC BINH TOLD US ARRESTS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH KY WHATSOEVER.

4. TWO OF THOSE ARRESTED -- EX- SENATORS PHAM NAM SACH AND THAI LANG NGHIEM -- ATTENDED MARCH 26 MEETING OF SOME 22 OPPOSITION FIGURES UNDER AUSPICES OF NGUYEN CAO KY. MG BINH TOLD US ARRESTS ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH THIS MEETING, WHOSE PARTICIPANTS ARE ACTING PUBLICLY. THESE OPPOSITION FIGURES' DISCUSSION WITH VIEW TO BROADENING CABINET ARE IN FACT LOOKED UPON FAVORABLY BY GOVT, BINH CONTENDED.

5. SOME POLITICAL LEADERS, HOWEVER, INCLUDING, WE UNDERSTAND, GENERAL KY, HIMSELF, VIEW ARREST AS CONNECTED WITH MAR 26 MEETING WITH VIEW TO BRINGING PRESSURE ON OPPOSITION (SEPTTEL).  
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## Message Attributes

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